

Secretary of State
Professional Licensing Boards Division
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Conference Call Minutes-8-30-12

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy Rules Committee met on Thursday, August 30, 2012 via conference call.

Board Members present:

Charlene D. Portee
Dorothy Gaskin
Monty Strickland

Staff present:

Tanja Battle, Executive Director
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

Dr. Portee called committee meeting to order at 8:32.

Dr. Portee discussed the purpose of the meeting which was to address possible changes to Rule 490-4-02 Continuing Competency Requirements, Rule 490-5-.01 regarding PTA Supervision and conduct an annual review of the Board's policies.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of changing the rule or policy as it relates to verbiage that would specify an electronic Georgia Jurisprudence Exam. Dr. Portee emphasized that either would need to include the 2013 effective date for clarity. After discussion, the Committee recommended that the language be addressed in a policy change rather than a rule change. The recommendation included the language be added in Policy #7 and should read:

Each licensed Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant must take and pass the electronic Georgia Jurisprudence Exam through the Federation of the State Boards of Physical Therapy effective 2013.

Dr. Portee made available to the Committee the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Jurisdiction Licensure Reference Guide regarding PTA Supervision Requirements and discussed some of its contents. The Committee further discussed whether or not the current board rule about such was too restrictive and if it hindered patient services. It was suggested that including language about various practice settings may be appropriate. After consideration, the Committee recommended that the rule remain the same at this juncture.

The Committee conducted an annual review of the Board's policies. It made the following recommendations:

1. Policy #16 be removed from table of contents.
2. That the term “ethics” should be removed throughout policies and be substituted with “electronic Georgia Jurisprudence Exam”
3. Policy #14 FSPT be inserted before “Retro Tools.”
4. Policy #11 striking 11(c)

Ms. Battle brought up the issue of Rehabilitation Services as it relates to the Georgia Board of Veterinary Medicine. Ms. Battle advised the Committee that the Board of Veterinary Medicine voted she refer the issue to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy to start discussions regarding the possibility of promulgating rules together to address the issue. Dr. Portee stated that Georgia law restricts the practice of physical therapy to human beings. The Committee agreed to discuss it at the upcoming Board meeting.

Meeting adjourn at 9:27am